

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 OIC-02
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15
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P R 281650Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6242
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 2337

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECE CSCE UR EC NO FI SENV ETRN ENGR PFOR
SUBJ: ECE - WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING MARCH 25, 1977 -
PREPARATIONS FOR ECE 32ND SESSION

REF: A. STATE 55312, B. GENEVA 2024, C. GENEVA 2096
D. GENEVA 2203, E. GENEVA 2088, F. GENEVA 2145

1. SUMMARY: ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MET MARCH 25 TO DISCUSS
PREPARATIONS FOR ECE 32ND SESSION. CAUCUS DISCUSSED
RECENT SOVIET, EC AND FINNISH LETTERS SETTING FORTH VIEWS ON
SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT,
TRANSPORT AND ENERGY. SWEDEN ADVISED IT WOULD
SEND LETTER SETTING FORTH GOS VIEWS ON SOVIET PROPOSAL
TO ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK IN ABOUT A WEEK. NORWAY
INDICATED IT PREPARED TO SEE ITS PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS ON
EMISSION CONTROLS INTEGRATED INTO HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON
ENVIRONMENT. CONSENSUS SEEN GROWING AROUND HIGH LEVEL
MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ECE AND IN
ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA SET FORTH
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BY ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN DOCUMENT E/ECE/911. CAUCUS WILL
MEET AGAIN APRIL 1. END SUMMARY.

2. ECE WESTERN CAUCUS OPENED MEETING MARCH 25 WITH
DISCUSSION OF SOVIET LETTER OF MARCH 16, 1977, ON ALL-
EUROPEAN CONGRESSES PROPOSAL (REF B). DISCUSSION FOCUSED
ON AMBIGUITY CONCERNING ROLE OF ECE DUE TO DIFFERENCES

IN OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF LETTER (REF D). DANISH AND TURKISH REPS ADVISED THAT SOVIET REPS WHEN QUESTIONED ON THIS POINT HAD STATED THAT PROPOSED CONFERENCES COULD BE ECE MEETINGS. SPAIN WAS TOLD THAT THEY COULD BE "SPECIAL" ECE MEETINGS. US SAID IT HAD IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS SAW MINIMAL ROLE FOR ECE. UK THOUGHT NEW SOVIET LETTER WAS DESIGNED TO STRIKE CONCILIATORY NOTE BUT WAS CONCERNED RE INCONSISTENCY RE ECE ROLE AND VAGUENESS IN DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONS OF PROPOSED CONGRESSES. FINNISH, SWISS, AUSTRIAN, AND CANADIAN REPS THOUGHT THAT NEW SOVIET LETTER WAS POSITIVE STEP AND SET STAGE FOR NEGOTIATION. CHAIRMAN (DENMARK) NOTED THAT FULL CLARITY WOULD NO DOUBT EMERGE ONLY DURING THE 32ND SESSION.

3. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LETTER OF MARCH 18, 1977 (REFS C AND F) CONSTITUTED SECOND ITEM FOR DISCUSSION. UK, SPEAKING FOR EC MEMBER COUNTRIES APOLOGIZED FOR DELIVERY OF LETTER PRIOR TO DISCUSSION IN CAUCUS. UK EXPLAINED THAT, FACED WITH TWO EVILS, EC HAD CHOSEN THE LESSER. EC HAD WANTED TO AVOID LEAVING INITIATIVE IN HANDS OF EAST AND WANTED TO GET VIEWS ON TABLE IN FAIRLY UNCOMPLICATED FORM. IT WISHED TO ESTABLISH PRIMACY OF ECE ROLE IN AREAS COVERED BY SOVIET PROPOSALS AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT, WHILE HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS COULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY SUCH MEETINGS MUST SATISFY CRITERIA SET FORTH BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK IN E/ECE/911. SUCH MEETINGS COULD ONLY BE HELD WITHIN THE ECE FRAMEWORK, NOT IN SPECIAL INDEPENDENT FORUM. WITH BELGRADE
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CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN MIND, EC ALSO THOUGHT WEST SHOULD AVOID APPEARANCE OF BEING NEGATIVE. EC POSITION WAS NOT NEGATIVE, SINCE EC COULD ACCEPT HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS PROVIDING THEY SERVED A PRACTICAL PURPOSE AND DID NOT UNDERMINE THE ECE. UK REP FURTHER NOTED THAT SOVIET PROPOSALS WERE NOT ONLY ONES ON TABLE, (I.E., THOSE OF STANOVNIK, NORWEGIANS AND FINNS). IN EC VIEW STANOVNIK PROPOSALS IN E/ECE/911 COULD ENCOMPASS VIEWS OF ALL PARTIES.

4. UK REP STATED THAT EC LETTER HAD BEEN COMPLETED JUST DAYS BEFORE SECOND SOVIET LETTER DELIVERED. CHOICE WAS BETWEEN IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF EC LETTER AND LONG DELAY IN REACHING NEW AGREEMENT. SINCE NOTHING IN SECOND SOVIET LETTER REQUIRED NEED TO RECONSIDER POINTS SET FORTH IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PROCEED.

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5. FINNISH REP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CLARIFICATION OF SOVIET AND EC VIEWS WAS POSITIVE STEP AND HAD NARROWED GAP BETWEEN POSITIONS. HE TOOK OPTIMISTIC VIEW RE CHANCES OF REACHING RESULTS AT 32ND SESSION. HE NOTED THAT OF FOUR PROPOSALS ON TABLE, THAT OF STANOVNIK HAD WIDEST SCOPE, SOVIET HAD THREE THEMES, FINNISH ONE THEME, AND NORWEGIAN ONE TOPIC. HOWEVER THEY HAD COMMON CHARACTERISTIC IN THAT THEY WERE BASED ON CSCE FINAL ACT AND DIRECTED TOWARD FUTURE WORK OF ECE. HE THOUGHT SYNTHESIS SHOULD BE ACHIEVABLE INFORM OF SINGLE CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT.

6. NORWAY STATED THAT IT SHARED MANY OF VIEWS IN EC LETTER. IT ALSO GAVE IMPORTANCE TO CRITERIA SET FORTH IN NEW FINNISH LETTER (REF E) AND PARTICULARLY TO STANOVNIK PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO ECE ACTIVITIES. IF THERE WERE GENERAL SUPPORT, NORWAY COULD ACCEPT A HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE LINES STANOVNIK HAS PROPOSED. AS TO LINK BETWEEN SUCH MEETING AND NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL FOR HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS ON EMISSION CONTROLS, NORWAY WAS PREPARED TO SEE LATTER INTEGRATED INTO FORMER.

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7. SWEDEN ALSO IMPLIED SUPPORT FOR HIGH LEVEL MEETING

ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY STANOVNIK, STATING THAT WHILE IT AGREED SOVIET TOPICS WERE IMPORTANT, IT WANTED TO SEE CONCRETE RESULTS AND BELIEVED ACTIVITIES AND STANDING OF ECE SHOULD NOT BE PREJUDICED. SWEDEN ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SEND LETTER TO STANOVNIK IN ABOUT ONE WEEK SETTING FORTH GOS VIEWS ON SOVIET PROPOSAL.

8. U.S. MADE STATEMENT ALONG LINES SET FORTH PARA 11 REF A, ALSO NOTING U.S. SUPPORT FOR NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL.

9. IN RESPONSE TO FINNISH QUESTION, UK REP ADVISED THAT EC LETTER DID NOT STATE PREFERENCE RE THEME FOR ANY HIGH LEVEL MEETING. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, UK AMBASSADOR SAID IT SEEMED MORE LIKELY ENVIRONMENT COULD SATISFY REQUIRED CRITERIA THAN ANY OTHER SUBJECT. IF AGREEMENT COULD BE FOUND UTILIZING STANOVNIK CRITERIA, UK WOULD WELCOME IT; OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE NO AGREEMENT.

10. CHAIRMAN (DENMARK) SAID IN CONCLUSION THAT HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT MAY BE WHERE SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND, ALTHOUGH CAUCUS POSITION NOT YET POSSIBLE.

11. CAUCUS AGREED THAT STANOVNIK SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO PREPARE ECE REPORT TO BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE (I.E., WITH NO "GUIDANCE" FROM MEMBERS AS REPORTEDLY FAVORED BY USSR).

12. YUGOSLAVIA ADVISED IT WOULD NOT SUBMIT USUAL RESOLUTION ON EUROPEAN MIGRATION BUT MIGHT SUBMIT RESOLUTION ON MEDITERRANEAN.

13. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT CONTACT GROUP FOR 32ND SESSION BE FORMED ALONG LINES OF THAT OF LAST YEAR, WITH WEST TO BE REPRESENTED BY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN (DENMARK), EC REP (UK), NEUTRAL
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(SWEDEN OR AUSTRIA) AND YUGOSLAVIA. THIS WOULD AGAIN PRECLUDE U.S. OR CANADA, BUT DESIRE IS TO KEEP CONTACT GROUP SMALL. OTHER COUNTRIES COULD SPEAK ON MATTERS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THEM OR ATTEND SESSIONS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT SPEAKING. FOR THIS REASON AND BECAUSE SPOKESMAN IN EFFECT DOES MAJOR PART OF NEGOTIATING, ACTUAL COMPOSITION OF CONTACT GROUP DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE. CAUCUS CHAIRMAN WOULD BE SPOKESMAN. DEPARTMENT PLEASE ADVISE IF FORMATION OF CONTACT GROUP ALONG ABOVE LINES IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

14. NEXT MEETING OF CAUCUS WILL BE HELD APRIL 1. DEPARTMENT

PLEASE ADVISE CONCERNING ANY FURTHER STATEMENT OF U.S. POSITION ON SOVIET AND/OR STANOVNIK PROPOSALS WHICH MAY BE

MADE AT THAT TIME.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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